

of the estate tax exclusion, but every one will be affected by the medical insurance premium rates, which this bill will drive up.

Every one will be at risk when their minimal so-called tax cuts expire in just a few years. Mine, by the way, are permanent. Our children and grandchildren will suffer ever more greatly as we continue to balloon the Federal debt.

This tax bill may be the greatest transfer of wealth from working Americans to the idle rich in the history of our country. Mr. Speaker, this is a very sad day for the country I love.

#### HONORING TWO NAVAJO CODE TALKERS

(Mr. BIGGS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the lives of two Navajo Code Talkers, George B. Willie Sr. and Teddy Draper Sr., who recently both passed away in my home State of Arizona.

While both young men, Mr. Willie and Mr. Draper enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and valiantly served in World War II in the Battles of Okinawa and Iwo Jima.

The Navajo Code Talkers used the Navajo language to transmit and receive messages that could not be translated or intercepted by the Japanese. This unique skill was a great advantage for the United States' victory in the Pacific theater.

In 2001, both Mr. Willie and Mr. Draper were awarded the Congressional Silver Medal for their service and selfless devotion to duty. The sacrifices of Mr. Willie and Mr. Draper and their families during World War II will be remembered for generations. We will be forever grateful for their dedication to our Nation.

#### GOP TAX PLAN

(Mr. LOWENTHAL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, the tax bill passed by the House GOP today embodies everything that Americans dislike about Congress:

It was drafted behind closed doors where the drafters cast aside expert analysis and relied instead on special interests and faulty disproven assumptions.

The plan slashes tax rates for multinational corporations and the super-wealthy, but leaves hardworking Americans in the 47th Congressional District to pay the bill.

It penalizes taxpayers in California and other blue States for investing in our schools, in our roads, and in our public services.

It cruelly hits children, seniors, and low-income Americans by putting at risk Medicare, Medicaid, SNAP, and Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, I could not, and proudly did not, vote for this disastrous piece of legislation.

#### UNION COUNTY FREEHOLDER VERNELL WRIGHT RETIRES

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a public servant from my district in Union County, New Jersey, Freeholder Vernell Wright, on the occasion of her retirement.

Freeholder Wright began her career in public service in 1966 as a title 1 teacher at Jefferson School in Union Township, New Jersey. For 36 years, she helped educate the county's public schoolchildren.

In 2012, the people of Union Township sent their beloved educator to represent them on the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Freeholder Wright's legacy as an elected official is best characterized by her unselfish devotion to the constituents whom she represents. As recognition for her dedicated work and selfless service, she has been awarded New Jersey's Freeholder of the Year Award and Union County's Chester Holmes Humanitarian Award.

Freeholder Wright is a model for the next generation of public servants.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and the people back in Union County tonight at a dinner to honor Freeholder Wright's lifetime of service. I am honored to be her Member of Congress.

God bless Freeholder Wright.

□ 1915

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF LORIMER ARENDSE, PRINCIPAL OF GRAND PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Lorimer Arendse, the principal of Grand Prairie High School, who lost his battle with stage IV lung cancer on December 15.

Never shy about sharing his hatred for school during his formative years, Lorimer found his passion for academics once he met and fell in love with his wife, Jeanelle, while attending Grace College in Warsaw, Indiana. Upon graduating Grace College, Lorimer continued his passion for education upon earning his master's degree in educational administration from Ashland University.

From there, he began his career in education as a math teacher and advanced to assistant principal. In 2013, Lorimer was named principal of the Young Men's Leadership Academy at Kennedy Middle School in Grand Prairie. In 2014, he was named principal of Grand Prairie High School.

Although his time with us was short, let us all be encouraged by his final lesson: treat each other with kindness. Be respectful. Be courteous. Be what a Gopher is.

At this time, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their prayers to Principal Lorimer Arendse's family and the Grand Prairie High School community.

#### CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF COUNCILMAN PETER BROWN

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to celebrate the life of a dear friend, the Honorable Peter Brown, former council member at large for the city of Houston. Tomorrow he will be memorialized in Houston, Texas.

It saddens me that I will not be able to join him and his family and the many, many Houstonians and friends who will come to honor him. The reason is because Peter Brown was Houston's chief champion. He loved Houston. He loved to talk about mobility in Houston. Even before most Houstonians understood the value of the light rail system, Peter Brown was on the forefront.

He was an architect, and he understood beauty and planning. He had a humorous and wonderful touch, but he also was serious and stern when it came to planning and the environment. Peter Brown wanted to see Houston as it is and as it continues to be a world class city. Before we spoke of greenery and all the things that make a city great, the parks, green space, Peter Brown was doing so.

Peter Brown was also a dear friend to me, my family, and so many others. He lost his battle just about 10 days ago to a terrible and vicious disease. But as I visited Peter, I can assure you that on the occasions I went to see him, he was always thinking about others and thinking about the city, thinking about our State and the Nation, always sharing, but fighting his fight.

To his family and his children and to the people who love him, I just simply want to say: tonight and tomorrow we honor a great American, a friend to us all.

He may be from Houston, Texas, but if you got a chance to know him, you would love him, too.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for a moment of silence in honor of the Honorable Peter Brown.

#### HEALTHCARE AND LITTLE LOBBYISTS

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to defend our Nation's children.

The GOP tax scam repeals the provision assuring all families have health